# COOKIA

Journal of the Wellington Shell Club, New Zealand

VOLUME 17, NOVEMBER 2005

## WELLINGTON SHELL CLUB TURNS 50!

ELLIOT DAWSON AND THE MAKING OF *COOKIA*

SOUTH ISLAND COLLECTING LOCATIONS

THE FAR NORTH OF NEW ZEALAND

TONNES OF TONNAS

MITRA CARBONARIA

# Editor's Choice

*Provocator mirabilis* – a white specimen from south east of New Zealand – shown actual size. An elegant deep water volute endemic to New Zealand.

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The *Cookia sulcata* featured on the front cover is from Jenny Raven's collection. It was found at Oraka Beach, Mahia, New Zealand and is approximately 39mm wide.

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# Editorial

A very big thankyou to everyone who has contributed to this my first issue as Editor. It is a reminder that a club can only be what its members make it.

Paying members make it financially viable • meeting attending members give it energy • *Cookia* contributors share their knowledge and add value to membership • field trips give opportunity for fun, discovery and shared social interest • promotion of the club brings new membership.

When clubs struggle for contributors to any of the above they find it hard to survive.

It is a delight to be part of a club that is thriving on the interest of its members. I am sure we will all continue to contribute to the Club's success.

It is with some trepidation that I have taken on the responsibility for this journal following in the footprints of Elliot who was a master of writing articles of molluscan significance and in so doing expand our understanding. His footprints are seperated by giant strides I simply cannot match [despite being 1.82 metres tall].

I am delighted that we may see more contributions to *Cookia* from Elliot, when he is able to, in the future.

For information on contributing to *Cookia* refer to page 27.

Selwyn Bracegirdle

Editor

# Wellington Shell Club Turns 50! by Jenny Raven

**In May 2005 the Wellington Shell Club turned 50. Club records showed that the Club had celebrated its 5th, 10th, 21st, 25th and 40th birthdays so it was essential that the 50th be celebrated also.**

The first Club meeting was held on Thursday 26th of May 1955 and by an amazing coincidence the 26th of May 2005 also fell on a Thursday. It was therefore decided that the first of our celebrations would start with a Club meeting on the Thursday with events extending through to the Saturday and Sunday. Invitations were sent out to as many past members as we could locate and preparations made.

And so it was that on Thursday 26th May 2005, a large group gathered outside the Te Papa, Tory Street premises, for the Club meeting, 50 years to the day since the Wellington Shell club was formed. The agenda was restricted to anniversary related items. Apologies were read, followed by correspondence. The Whangarei Shell Club had sent a card, signed by all members. Then the minutes of the very first meeting were read. This meeting was held at the old Dominion Musuem in Buckle Street. Dr Dick Dell was in the chair and 8 members had attended – this being the result of Dr Dell and Mr Bill Paul's decision to send out letters to local shell enthusiasts inviting them to attend. There were no subscriptions and no committee was elected – things have changed since then!

For general business we looked at the Club's history through the decades – Presidents, speakers, members, venues, happenings and field trips. This prompted many of the members present to reminisce about their recollections of the events and the people involved. We learnt that in 1956 an unsuccessful attempt had been made to change the name of the Club to the Wellington

Concology Club. In 1964 the Club had almost founded for a lack of members. However a year later, it was back with a record number of members as a result of a letter drop to science teachers and the placing of a shell display in the Wellington Central library. During the first decade meetings were generally formal, chaired by Dr Dell and addressed by himself or Drs Marwick and Fleming. When Dr Dell was appointed Director of the Dominion Museum in 1967, the Club decided to elect a committee with Mr Paul as its first President. From then on museum scientists Drs Beu and Climo took over most of the speaking roles. Their talks were mainly on shell families, the results of these being published in Club Bulletins which had replaced newsletters from 1966. These in turn were replaced with the now familiar *Cookia* magazine in 1975.

Contributions to Club meetings and events by members became more common from the late 1970s. In 1989 the Club moved its meetings, in line with the rest of the Museum's conchology section, to the first of two Tory Street premises. The Club ventured into running the first New Zealand National Shell Show as part of its 40th celebrations in 1995, repeating this in 2002.

Looking back over 50 years it was obvious the Club has been particularly active with many people making a valuable contribution in ensuring its survival. Although it was sad that many of them were no longer with us, it was nice however, that this 50th meeting afforded us the opportunity to talk about these contributions and the individuals involved. A particular surprise to current members was to learn that Miss Brady who had joined the club for a few years from 1959, was now Doreen Burr who had rejoined the Club in 1993 and was therefore our longest, still current, member. Doreen was present to celebrate our 50th and was therefore called upon to cut the cake that had specially been baked and decorated with Cookia sulcatas for the occasion.

**Doreen Burr cuts the '50th' birthday cake.**

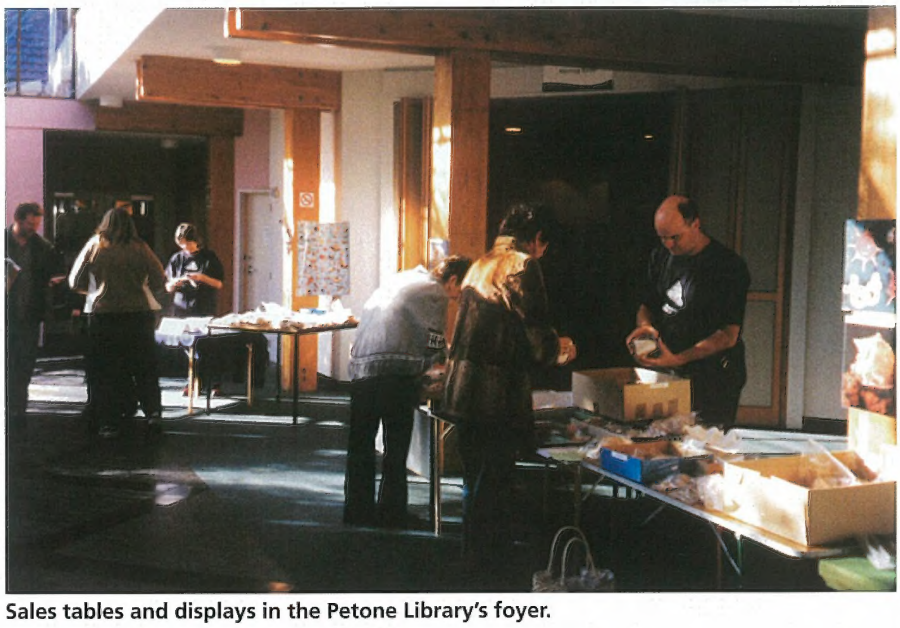
With cake and chocolates, the meeting ended convivially with members still reminiscing when it was time to leave.

Saturday was quite different. The community rooms adjacent to the public library in Britannia Street, Petone had been booked from 10am. Several members arrived early to put up posters and set up tables with displays and shells for sale. The library was open from 10am to 2pm and during this time several members of the public came through to view and buy shells. After 2pm more members and past members arrived. The inner room was given over to Club memorabilia, photos (from each decade) competitions, raffles, a video and an auction of shells. When exhausted of this, members could retire for tea from the kitchen or sit on one of the many chairs for a chat. It was good to see ex-members, Walter and Mrs Buchan and Claire Clark present. It was also good to have many of our out of town members present. All too soon it was 5.30pm. The competitions and auction were marked and awarded and it was off to a restaurant for the Club meal. The restaurant was aptly sited for shell enthusiasts, right on the Petone water front. Over 30 members and partners attended. We enjoyed the view and had a toast to absent (shell) friends and to the future of the Club. Then it only remained to enjoy the meal and relax.

Not content with two days of celebrations, many turned up at Jenny Raven's house the next day for an afternoon of socialising and viewing shells. Kris Woods started a raffle, there were free shell containers to take home and soon there was much animated shell conversation. Finally it was time to go. It had been three days full of Shell Club activity. All agreed it had been a great way to celebrate the Wellington Shell Club's 50th birthday and our mutual interest in shells!

**Both Jenny Raven and Deirdre Standish know the seriousness of a 50th birthday.**

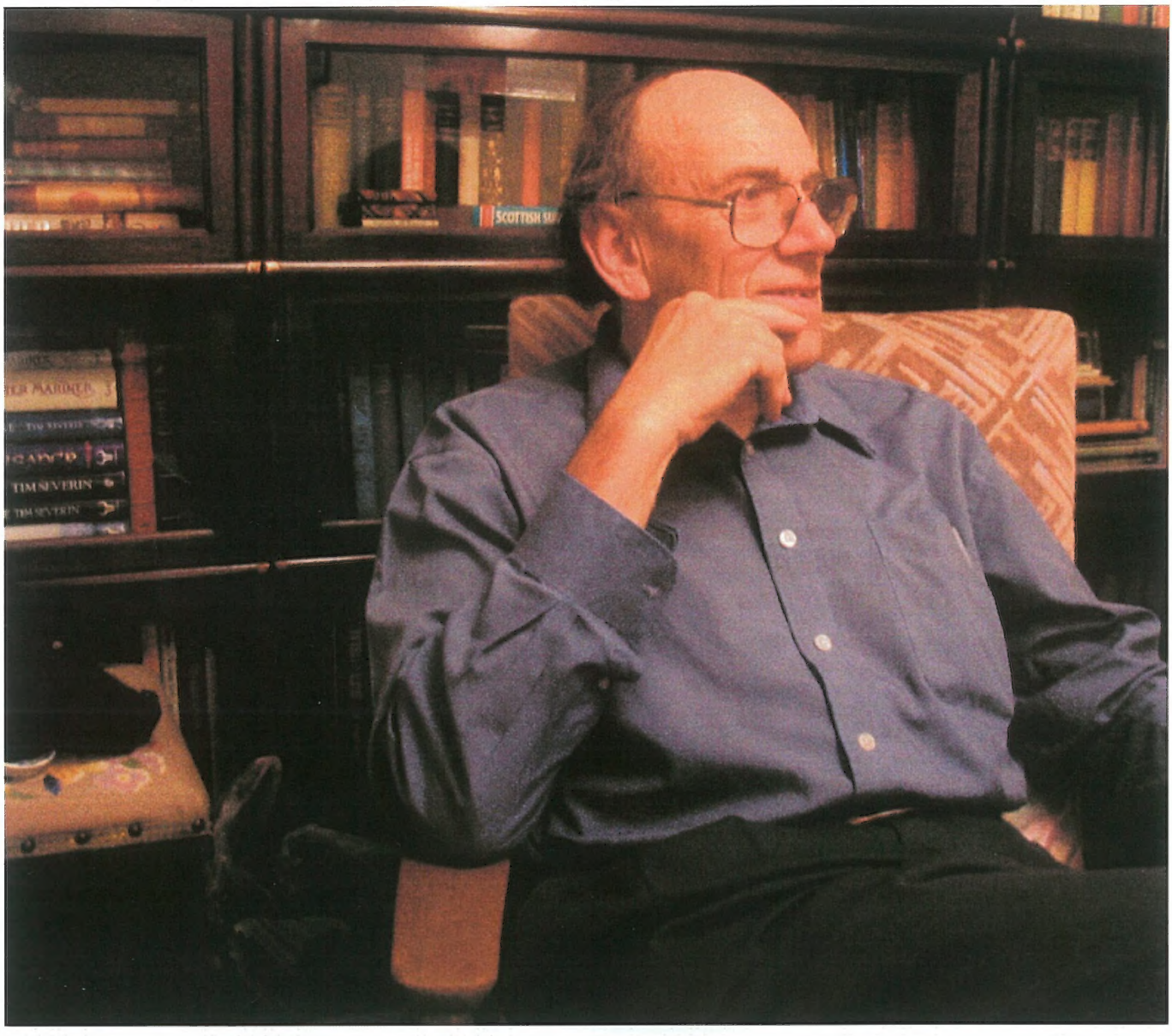
**Past and present members celebrating the 50th birthday at the Club's monthly meeting.**



**Sales tables and displays in the Petone Library's foyer.**

**Many of the photos on display covering Club activities over the past 50 years.**

# Elliot W Dawson and the Making of *Cookia* by John Marston



Soon after the Wellington Shell Club was founded in 1955 by Dr R K Dell, the members decided to give direction to their collecting by starting a *Circular* and recording what molluscan species occurred in specified areas. Eventually that lapsed, but was issued as the *Bulletin* from 1967 onwards, beginning with re-issuing previous *Circular* lists, but with updated names. The *Bulletin* lapsed in 1975, but under the enthusiasm of the then President, Trevor Ritzema, we agreed to burst into print with a Club journal to be named *Cookia*.

Following *Poirieria* as an example, it was to be three or four issues per year to make one volume for that year. In retrospect (always so wise!) we should have concentrated on one large volume for 1976, but instead Parts I, II, III arrived in dribs and drabs during the year, followed by an 'Index' for the three parts of 1976.

From 1969 onwards the Club was privileged to receive one or two learned lectures for our meeting from either Dr Alan Beu or Dr Frank M Climo, or both. Eventually the bright idea was to incorporate some of those texts into *Cookia* for the benefit of postal members. Even in 1976 we had members in Belgium, Italy, Hawai'i and Australia.

For the benefit of the young, stencils called 'flimsies' were typed on an office-size typewriter, then hand-cranked on a Gestetner. The black printer's ink was was an enduring quality, guaranteed to last on skin and clothing as well as on paper! Then the second hand Gestetner was rejected and we had the job done professionally,

but were forced to raise the annual sub to two dollars. The problem of posting four issues per year to all the overseas subscribers put us in the red so the subs were raised again.

Club members such as William J Paul (President). Peter Cresswell (Second President), Betty Wolf, Jean Boswell, Meg Taylor, Betty Andrews nobly supplied contributions, but by studying the Index, Volume 7, No 4, Dec 1996, by Jill Burnet and Elliot W Dawson, it is apparent that the two major contributors throughtout Cookia's history have been Drs Alan G Beu and Frank M Climo. For the benefit of Club members, Frank lectured largely on marine and freshwater shells, and avoided land mollusca, his speciality. Dr Beu covered New Zealand fossils, led our field trips to Wanganui and Waverley, and in his club lectures would link the fossil past to the present marine.

Month after month these two scientists, busy in their own fields, never-the-less presented fresh lectures to the club.

Dr C A (later Sir Charles) Fleming invited us annually to be shown over the DSIR Geological Survey, and Dr Beu followed in his suit. The Oceanographic Institute (now NIWA) experts such as Dr Steve O'Shea and Dr Joyce Richardson always found time for us.Lectures written up in *Cookia* enabled postal members to join in. Dr R K Dell had supplied articles from the beginning, and then Dr Ken Grange arrived at the Oceanographic Institute/NIWA, and became editor as well as a contributor.

Extreme seniority in the workplace has its drawbacks to professional scientists, as their work forces their undivided attention. As a club, therefore, we were forced back upon our own resources by the late 1980s, but help was in sight. Retirement came to Elliot Dawson, Dr John Yaldwyn and Dr Dell, and all three, of course, continued work, but as Emeritus Scientists attached to the museum then in Taranaki Street. Unencumbered by administration they could continue along research lines which they'd previously developed.

## ADVENT OF ELLIOT W DAWSON

Elliot and Grace Dawson found time to attend Wellington Shell Club in 1990, and at the AGM Elliot graciously accepted the post of editor of *Cookia* as from 1991.

His appointment proved pivotal to the total future development of *Cookia*. No longer was it going to be totally dependent on outside assistance for scientific articles. Under his editorship our articles were corrected, guided, expanded, and in every case his enthusiasm was so great that he contributed an extra background article with further references for added research. We'd never met anything like that before.

The troops can't advance beyond the level of leadership of the General, and the following article by Elliot in *Cookia* Vol 7, (2) May 1995, pp13-21 indicates the depth of his scholarship and the thoroughness of his research on just one mollusc, the bivalve *Acesta* (family Limidae). [A colourful illustration occurs in the July 1949, *National Geographic*, in Platt's article "Shells Take You Over Wide Horizons'. Platts in 1949 called it "one of the rarest shells in the world".] Today that no longer holds true. At the time Don W Watson, who was our club President, was line fishing off Kaikoura Peninsula, and hauled in a line with an *Acesta rathbuni* clamped onto it. That at least would be one of the rarest methods of securing such a deepwater *Acesta rathbuni*.

Having just re-read that *Cookia* article pp13-21 did you just stop after page 18? There are several major points to discover from those references on pp19-21.

(1) A G Beu is quoted on 5 occasions; the fifth work – BEU A G; MAXWELL P A, 1990: 'Cenozoic Mollusca of NZ' – this is not only essential to all students of fossil shells, but is helpful with ancestry of today's shells.

(2) ATKINSON K, 1995: 'Chatham Rise phosphate holds mining potential', The Evening Post (Wellington), 29 April, 1995.

DAWSON E W, 1984: 'The Benthic Fauna of the Chatham Rise: an assessment relative to the possible effects of phosphate mining ... contd.

Geologische Jahrbuch (D)65 213-235, pls 1-2.

Note that Elliot was eleven years ahead of the newspaper reporter!

(3) So thorough is Elliot's research that he consults all relevant material although in other languages. His own background in French and German gives him facility, and his solid background in Latin gives an entrée into Italian and Spanish.

I selected these 3 merely because they are contiguous on p19:

BOURCIER M; ZIBROWIUS H, 1969: Note sur '*Lima excavata* (Fabricius)', pélécypode associé aux bancs de coraux profonds. Bulletin de la Société Zoologique de France.

CARCASSI A, 1983: ' Ulteriore ritrovameno di *Acesta excavata* vivente in Mediterraneo'. Bollettino Malacologico della Unione Malacologica Italiana.

CARCACELLES A, 1947: 'Notas sobre algunos Bivalvos argentinos'. Communicaciones Zoologicas del Museo de Historia Natural de Montevideo.

p21 NORDSIECK F, 1969: 'Die Europaischen Meersmuscheln (Bivalvia) von Eismeer bis Kapverden, Mittelmeer und Schwarzen Meer'.

Some institutions and emerging scientists have made the mistake of ignoring the benefits of foreign languages in science.. Even 50 years ago it was compulsory to include basic French and German in a B.Sc. degree, to be able to read scientific texts in at least those two languages.

## F W HUTTON: HIS NEW SPECIES OF MOLLUSCS

by Elliott Dawson.

Also in *Cookia* 7 (2) pp27-28, 1995 appeared his modest two page summary of F W Hutton, his incredibly wide abilities and interests, and a specific list of the families of new molluscan fauna which he had named.

Did you realise the connection between these two pages (27-28) and the seven lines on p30?

**p30 Old Shell Names for New!**

The following publication is available from The Wallypug Press, 17 Kotari Road, Eastbourne 6008, for $12.50 postfree:

'F W Hutton (1836-1905) pioneer naturalist: a bibliography and taxonomic analysis. Occasional Papers of the Hutton Foundation New Zealand' Number 5, 150 pages, October 1994.

Amonst other things this 150 page book lists the names of all the molluscan species as originally described by F W Hutton and gives their present-day equivalents (see article by Elliott Dawson in *Cookia* 7 (2) 1995 pp27-28.

That is all that was said. The "150 pages" intrigued me so I bought a copy; I wonder just how many other Club members did so? I hadn't heard of the Wallypug Press before, but I certainly recognised the address. I read the whole 150 pages, growing more and more astounded at the facets of historical scientific scholarship revealed, quite apart from the pure science. Elliott's Editorial in *Cookia* 7 (3) 1, 1996 had revealed Zoology and Geology to Honours levels, which was expected, but this Hutton book was a new dimension. English Honours offered an exam paper - plus - thesis option of "Scholarship and Research", and yet before me was this erudite work on Hutton the scientist, prepared by another scientist, but using all the technology of English MA Honours research!

To return to actual shells: if you purchase your copy of 'F W Hutton', you'll find some molluscan names are unfamiliar to you, eg:

p105 *Arion hortensis* (Férussac, 1819)

p115 *Testacella haliotidae* (Draparnaud, 1801)

are not in Powell's checklists. These two are just some of many of the accidentally-introduced European garden slugs which Hutton had already recorded in NZ by 1888.

Once again, study the references given:

(1) FLEMING C A, 1966: 'Marwick's Illustrations of NZ Shells, with a checklist of NZ Cenozoic Mollusca'. This is another essential volume for fossil hunters.

(2) DAWSON E W, 1990: 'The Cenozoic Brachiopoda of NZ'. NZ Oceanographic Institute.

(3) DAWSON E W, 1992: 'The Marine Fauna of NZ: Index to the Fauna Protozoa'. NZ Oceanographic Institute Memoir.

These two studies indicate some of Elliot's other research lines, as well as molluscs.

The first 'Occasional Paper of the Hutton Foundation NZ' was on 'Coelenterata of the NZ Region', and the second one on 'The living brachiopod fauna'.

All of this information about Elliot's professional background has arisen from the short articles in 'Cookia' already referred to.

*Cookia* 6 (3) pp19-26, 1991 was Elliott's first production, and this reference is to 'Advice to shell collectors – 1849 style: a gleaning from the Mantell Papers in the Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington'. That is historical scientific research at its best, and it was our privilege to have that research appear first in 'Cookia'. Perhaps the Wallypug Press may carry it further?

## MARSHALL ISLANDS

In 1997 our club President, Don Watson and wife Pat, had the rare opportunity to fly to Majuro in the Marshall Islands. Don excitedly collected all the possible Micronesian shells which he could safely get. His *Nassarius troendleorum* was a new record for so far west for that relatively new and rare species.

Elliott then showed his own enthusiasm for that seldom visited region by supplying maps to accompany Don's article, and a history of Johnston Island and the Marshall Group. Elliot's conclusion on pp51-52 then put into perspective the original discoveries Don had added to the little known molluscan fauna of Majuro Atoll.

## COOK BICENTENARY EXPEDITION

Elliott's background to coral reefs and Indo-Pacific mollusca led to a great adventure.

To mark the 200th anniversary of Captain Cook's landing in NZ the Royal Society of NZ and the parent Royal Society of London began arranging a joint expedition to revisit the Cook Islands and the Kingdom of Tonga. The aim was to continue scientific observations and make collections and note changes in exactly two centuries. The Royal NZ Navy fully cooperated and the HMNZS Endeavour was seconded to the expedition.

Finally in 1971 appeared the 141 page report 'Cook Bicentenary Expedition in the South West Pacific, 1969' published by the Royal Society of NZ. Professor J C Beaglehole wrote an historical background. Ronald Fraser wrote 'A narrative of the Cook Bicentenary Expedition'. This Foreword by the President of the Royal Society of NZ gave a succinct summary of their conclusions.

Then followed the Preface by the Expedition Leader, chosen from among all the most renowned of NZ's research scientists in the 1950s and 1960s, and the leader selected was none other than our *Cookia* editor, the modest Elliot W Dawson.

He led the whole NZ team of scientists covering geology, flora, fauna, magnetic surveys, archaeology etc., liaised with the Expedition Leader of the United Kingdom team, and liaised with the Commander and crew of HMNZS Endeavour. With his past expeditions on that ship as part of Oceanographic Institute research surveys, Elliot knew the Commander and crew well. Apart from all of that leadership, Elliot and a colleague from the Oceanographic Institute did their own research topic, 'A survey of the habits and ecology of marine animals, on reef and shore, in Vava'u and western islands of the Tongan Group'. As usual, Elliot began with a revision of all explorers and scientists from Cook's time until their own.

The three English scientists working in Rarotonga and Aitutaki paid tribute to the previous research done there by the NZ Eclipse Expedition of 1965, and in particular to the "most important contribution to the marine geology, geomorphology and biology of those islands", with "much bathymetric work and study of marine communities and bottom sediments done by E W Dawson and C P Summerhayes".

With so many years of marine research in tropical waters, it was no wonder Elliot was enthused by Don Watson's article about Majuro Atoll, and was able to add much further background.

## GEOLOGICAL INTERESTS

*Cookia* 9, November 1998, contained Jenny Raven's introduction to the excavations on the tombolo which links Wellington proper to the Miramar peninsula. Elliot promptly turned up at the excavations for the underground car parks, as it was the once in a lifetime chance to see profiles of the tombolo.

Unfortunately we couldn't get footholds to climb up the faces as the sand was uncompacted, so could only collect what shells tumbled down.

In *Cookia* 7 (3) January 1996, in his editorial about the 1954 Chatham Islands Expedition, following on from our first Club visit there, Elliot had mentioned that he had been offered a position in the DSIR Geological Survey, but had "opted for living shells". However, Jenny's article brought out the geologist in Elliot, so now we have an excellent geological history of the Kilbirnie area, complete with maps, recorded for future reference in Cookia 9, November 1998.

## FURTHER WIDE INTERESTS

Elliot has contributed scientific articles of his own to expand our interests. 'Cookia' 8, 1997 contains 'Trials of being a Pipi in Pegasus Bay', which is a serious study despite the humorous title.

When re-reading it now, can you visualise the field work, done in all weathers, as a time limit is set for an Honours Thesis. Organising the setting adrift of plastic envelopes and drift-bottles would be a huge job, only equalled by having helpful people who found them filling in the data and posting them back for Elliot to process. That was a year's work, and as a Thesis amounted to 212 pages plus 41 plates of illustrations, but what appears in *Cookia* 8, 1997, is actually a newspaper article prepared by Elliot for 'The Press' of Christchurch, 12 November 1960.

Note (1) on page 34 records Elliot's references to the American scientist W S Coe and his studies on the Donax bivalves of his local beaches [Many of you will have Donax species from England, America or the Mediterranean]. Page 36 Literature Cited lists four of Coe's major studies on ocean and tidal currents and their effects on disappearance or resurgence of shallow water bivalves. Elliot referred to his correspondence with the eminent scientist, so it is no surprise further down to read the Wallypug Press to the fore again in issue number 7 under:

DAWSON E W, 1996: 'Wesley Roswell Coe (1869-1960): Marine biologist of renown – a bibliography and an appreciation'. Occasional Papers of the Hutton Foundation New Zealand 7: 1-40, 4 figs.

Elliot's interests in archaeology, especially what the pre-European Maori ate from the sea, are referred to on page 35, and in Literature Cited on page 36 we note his joint publication with John C Yaldwyn in 1975, and their research connection with M M Trotter and Canterbury Museum.

**'MYLLITA STOWEI: The Mollusc and the Man – Some thoughts from Oteranga Bay'**

Selwyn Bracegirdle's charming photo of a live taken *Myllita stowei*, reproduced in colour too, prompted a remarkable 12 page article by Elliot in *Cookia* Vol 15, 2003. Hutton named the new bivalve in 1873, and Elliot traced all its name changes as from that date, and the background of the man after whom it was named, Edwin Stowe.

The family records which Elliot unearthed reveal a truly remarkable family. Stowe Hill at the eastern end of Tinakori Road is where his brother lived. The gentry who migrated to NZ all had Oxford or Cambridge degrees, usually to MA level in the Classics, hence all the Greek and Latin names bestowed (no pun) upon new genera and species.

Elliot's tracing of Mrs Mary Watt of Brooklyn, Wellington, as a granddaughter of one of Edwin Stowe's brothers makes fascinating reading, as does discovering Jocelyn Thornton as the great niece of Edward Davis, after whom Edwin Stowe named a Nelson shell which he had thought to be new.

As this article of 12 pages "was funded by the Hutton Foundation New Zealand" we can hope to see a full book in the series devoted to Edwin Stowe and Edwin Davis. It is exciting to read the background of the 19th century naturalists who explored NZ, and in particular those involved in mollusca, geology and archaeology.

**'MEASURE FOR MEASURE: or what Shakespeare never new about imperial, metric, and much worse'**

*Cookia* Vol 16, 2004 is Elliot's swansong-performance as editor, and right to the end he valiantly strove to uplift our overall knowledge of science in general, as well as mollusca in particular. After 30 years on boats in the Sounds we still use fathoms, but, "fear no more the heat of the sun" or anything else, as this is my swansong too! The concluding 4 lines, defining a metre in atomic terms made me switch off totally from metrics.

*Cookia* 16, 2004, p45 is invaluable for coping with Quoy and Gaimard. Having explained their 19th century French measurements on p45 he introduced us to:

pp57-58 'MAORICOLPUS ROSEUS – a washup and a commentary'

Mary Agnus Wotton supplied the colourful photo and field notes, and Elliot the commentary. Their measurements would be incomprehensible to most of us without his prior explanations on p45. That is the perfect justification for a unified metric system, but only for measuring shells accurately.

**OPEN NOMENCLATURE – THE PITFALLS OF: "?", "cf", "aff".**

*Cookia* Vol 16, 2004, pp50-56 is possibly the most erudite article which Elliot has contributed to our periodical. It is a topic which is normally glossed over by speakers or writers, but unfortunately for mere amateurs the lack of any previous uniformity among scientists has caused us to "switch off" all together, and to accept what the writer says without questioning it. The fact that Elliot has introduced serious material to us has raised the stature of *Cookia* above all measure.

As we are all at varying stages we will respond differently to every article published. The essential thing is that knowledge and accuracy has been offered to us, it is safely in print in *Cookia*, and a set of back numbers of *Cookia* will prove a real treasure trove, and periodicals which we ought to revise on a regular basis.

At one stage Elliot and I had discussed re-issuing all the 'Bulletins' as a single volume in *Cookia*, on the grounds that so much of what earlier Club members wrote is still worth reading today.

All the current lists of Wellington zone shells are just updates of what were begun in the 'Circulars' after 1955, and updated in the 'Bulletins' after 1967.

**'IS A "RARE SHELL" REALLY "RARE"? SOME VALEDICTORY THOUGHTS ON DEEP-SEA COLLECTING.**

*Cookia* Vol 16, 2004 compresses into 16 pages (59-75) a picture of some aspects of Elliot's research during 35 years with the NZ Oceanographic Institute, "dredging and trawling throughout NZ seas, in the Subantarctic, the Antarctic, and the tropical South Pacific".

Mention is made of dredging from HMNZS Endeavour in May 1963 when Elliot had Commander James Lennox-King as Captain, to as late as 1978. He modestly omits his part as Expedition Leader on that same ship as part of the Royal Society of NZ scientists' expedition in honour of Captain Cook's bicentenary visit.

Thankyou from all members of the Wellington Shell Club, and also from our postal members, and your colleagues in the British Museum of Natural History, London, and the Australian Museum, Sydney, who have been receiving *Cookia* since you began as Editor in 1991. Volume 16, November 2004 has a wide balance of articles from our membership throughout its 80 pages, and that issue surely is the zenith of the 33 issues to date, and the supreme credit is due to your enthusiastic editorship.

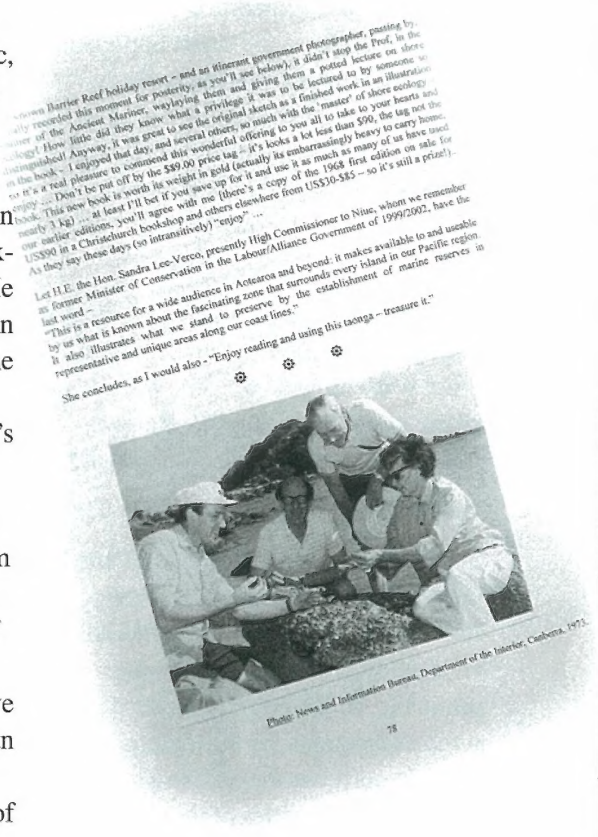
**THE LAST WORD**

Yes, at last, and what's more, it's mine!

Elliot's final book review in *Cookia* Vol 16 is on pp77-78, 'SEASHORE ECOLOGY OF NZ AND THE PACIFIC, by John Morton. As usual, it is genuinely enthusiastic and will persuade you to buy Professor Morton's latest book.

To me, though, the highlight is the end photograph in which we see John Morton and our beloved retired Editor together in Queensland (see below).

Along with our gratitude for the monumental achievements from 1991 to 2004 go our warmest wishes to you and Grace for re-retirement, and more time available to devote to the Hutton Foundation New Zealand, and the Wallypug Press.



# 5th New Zealand Shell Show 2004 by Kris Woods

**AUCKLAND, 15th – 17th OCTOBER 2004**

I joined the Wellington Shell Club in 1991 and since then have entered exhibits in four shell shows. These events are perfect opportunities to increase one's shell collecting and general shell knowledge. When such an opportunity arose again, I could not miss it. This time the show was to be held in Auckland in the Pakuranga Community Centre.

I could say the preparation of my four exhibits went smoothly. That would just not be true. Entering shell shows takes a lot of time and effort but I am a passionate collector and that got me through the hours of work. The hours when I could not decide which shells to display, when they just wouldn't fit on the trays, when I cut more than one piece of lining material too small and when the cat sent completed displays flying off the table. The cat was evicted from the room (a nice way of putting it) and the displays were finally ready.

On the way to Auckland on the Friday morning you could have sworn we were carrying a stationery shop. Amongst other things, I was armed with all manner of paper and cardboard, pens, pencils, markers, twink, sellotape, blue tack and glue. Most shows I have entered I have had to do last minute surgery on an exhibit and there is nothing worse than not having the necessary emergency gear.

We arrived at the venue (a first class facility opposite a big shopping centre) and we had three hours to set up. I used every second of that time. Roger's assistance was invaluable as we had brought Selwyn Bracegirdle's exhibits as well and Roger set these up.

As I set up, many others were doing likewise. The hall buzzed and the bees got busier as time marched on. I must commend the Auckland Shell Club as everything was very well organized making exhibitors' tasks a great deal easier. There were 31 classes with approximately 180 exhibits and I quickly established that the standard was high. Most people were setting up multiple exhibits. One Auckland Club member, Heather Smith, was busy with a staggering 40 entries.

Selwyn had asked me a few days prior to the show which of my exhibits I felt most confident in winning a prize with. I'd thought my Muricidae as I had attempted something different with this exhibit and it is the family I am most passionate about. Well, when I placed my exhibits with the others in that class my confidence waned, as the Murexes before me were stunning. However, I remained positive!

Thank goodness I had my arsenal of stationery. I discovered a couple of labeling errors and out came the precious twink. Horror of horrors! After twinking and re-labeling, I further discovered that I was right in the first place so out came the spare cardboard and I held my breath as I tried to perfectly write new labels. I felt a real nutter to say the least. In another exhibit I found a shell, which must have broken in transit. I repositioned it and hoped a judge would not notice. I'll never know if that happened!

We left at six o'clock, just as the judges were beginning to arrive. I didn't envy their job with the display standard being so high. It was now time to relax and enjoy the evening.

Our accommodation in Auckland was across town with Heather Smith and her sister Alison Stanes. Pat Lakeman, Graham Aamodt and Jenny Raven were staying there as well. The shell show was discussed on more than one occasion that evening and of course we had a thorough perusal of Heather's shell collection. She said she would be happy just to win one first prize with her exhibits.

We returned to the show Saturday morning. This was the chance to really look at all the exhibits. There was no spare time to do that whilst setting up the night before. I was thrilled to see I had won two seconds and elated to have won a first with my Muricidae. All the Wellington Shell Club exhibitors had won prizes and Heather had won her first prize after all. She had more than surpassed her hopes by winning an incredible fourteen firsts!

It really was a learning experience walking around the hall and appreciating the displays. I picked up

**Trophy winners left to right:**
**Peter Poortman, Bob Grange, Betty Grange, Kris Woods, Jenny Raven, Doug Snook and Heather Smith.**

**Shell dealers at their sales tables.**

a lot of good ideas for the next shell show. Everything was impressive and the effort in exhibiting was obvious. I must mention three prizes in particular. I was impressed with Peter Poortman's "Best New Zealand Shell" (*Glaphyrina caudata*) and his 'Shell of the Show' (*Coluzea wormaldi*). These were stunning specimens. Then finally, Bob and Betty Grange's "Australian Shell of the Show" (*Strombus hickeyi*). Apart from it being an excellent shell, I also mention this one because in July 2004 Roger and I walked along the fabulous beach in Queensland where this Strombus lives. Walking with us was the delightful Andy Hickey.

The Saturday morning gave everyone the opportunity to buy from the dealer's tables. The exhibits surrounded the dealers so with all the viewing and buying it made for a very busy time. I made a beeline for the Murexes and I admit to visiting the ATM a couple of times that morning. My Muricidae collection looks more impressive as a result. I am responsible for the Wellington Shell Club raffles so I had a field day buying even more shells. There were a lot of dealers from New Zealand and overseas. I enjoyed meeting Merv Cooper and Pauline from Australia. I also enjoyed chatting to the Auckland members.

Roger and I don't get up to Auckland frequently so we left the show late morning for sightseeing and the obligatory buying of presents for the children. The ATM would be revisited again!

Between 2 pm and 5 pm there were buy, sell and swap tables at the show and we managed to get back in time to acquire more shells. There was a further opportunity for spending, with an auction of shells and books at 5 pm. I secured several good items.

The prize giving followed very promptly after the auction had finished. They were held in the same room and the transition was very smooth and efficient. Prize giving is a much-anticipated event and one of the highlights of all shell shows. I appreciated getting into it briskly and I was eager to take hold of the trophy for Muricidae. Heather literally staggered under the weight of her trophies and certificates.

A busy day culminated with a dinner only a quick drive away and I know everyone attending was looking forward to sitting back and relaxing. The drinks flowed and the company was excellent. Not surprisingly, shell shows and shell collecting were discussed at length. I couldn't think of a more effective and congenial way to participate in a debriefing session.

On Sunday we had some catching up to do with friends around Auckland so we returned to the show in the afternoon. I had one last look around the exhibits and several more forages amongst the dealer's shells. I gave in and just couldn't resist buying one last glorious orange Murex, which I had been coveting all weekend. Before we knew it, we were taking down the exhibits. I would much rather be doing this than setting up although it still takes considerable time. Two more prizes were announced during this time. Heather won "Public Choice" with her "Most Colourful Display". My "Most Colourful Display" won "Exhibitor's Choice".

This was a great weekend and I'm sure everyone enjoyed themselves. I congratulate the Auckland Shell Club for organising an excellent show and I thank Heather and Alison for being perfect hosts. I look forward to the next New Zealand Shell Show in Wellington in 2007.

PRELIMINARY NOTICE

# 2007 NEW ZEALAND SHELL SHOW

Hosted by the
Wellington Shell Club
at the
Lower Hutt Town Hall

**27-28 January 2007**
(Set up 26 January)

# South Island Collecting Locations compiled by Jill Burnet

**from contributions by Doreen Burr, Edyth Coursey, Pete Cresswell, Lloyd Esler and Jenny Raven.**

At our February meeting in 2005, we discussed shell collecting in the South Island of New Zealand. There was a very good reason for this – Jenny Raven was planning a trip to Oamaru in March, and wherever Jenny goes she likes to collect shells, so she wanted some recommendations of good places to visit.

She herself brought along to the meeting an impressive collection of shells from Marfell Beach and Kaikoura, which are already favourite collecting spots for Wellington Shell Club members.

Apart from the stories of good and bad from those at the meeting, we heard from several of our South Island members, who shared their local knowledge with us. This article is compiled from their contributions which we decided were so useful that they should be recorded in *Cookia*.

I have merged the contributions into one list, starting at Westport and working clockwise round the coastline.

**Tauranga Bay, Westport** – sandy beach with rocks. The small white rock shell (*Lepsithais lacunosus*) can be found among mussels. It is only a short walk round to the point at the north where Doreen and Ivan encountered a colony of seals, with the young playing in the pools and enjoying the waves splashing in. Nearer to Cape Foulwind, access is more difficult, and the beach consists of very large boulders. The washed-up kelp is devoured by hordes of *Diloma nigerrima* and, as one walks past, there is a continuous clatter of these wee beasties as they drop to safety among the boulders. Many shelter on the undersides of the boulders.

**Farewell Spit** – after a storm this can be very fruitful. The tour company headquarters boast an extensive display of shells, among other things, including *Alcithoe, Astraea, Calliostoma* and *Janthina*. In the tearooms at the end of the road, you will find a display of *Argonauta nodosa* of varying sizes, including one with the animal herself. Doreen has heard that one overseas tourist was unable to persuade the local expert that the one he had found was made of plastic.

Near the tearooms, you can walk to the beach and along the southern side of the spit. The *Maoricolpus roseus* are large and numerous in the washup. Most of the shells are common – *Amphibola, Austrovenus, Macomona liliana, Cominella*, but there is the occasional *Solemya parkinsonii* in good condition.

**Puponga** – a few feet from the main road, and the parked car, Doreen Burr found her *Argonauta nodosa*.

**Pakawau** – Edyth Coursey has found *Phenatoma*, *Panopea zelandica*, and *Oxyperas elongata*.

**Collingwood** – look for *Bassina yatei* and *Macomona liliana*.

**Pohara** – *Alcithoe arabica*, *Austrovenus stutchburyi*, and *Dosinia anus* have been found here.

**Kaiteriteri** – a good place for *Dicathais orbita*, *Calliostoma tigris*, *Macomona liliana*, *Gari stangeri*, *Pratulum pulchellum*, *Amalda*, and small top shells. It could be worth exploring round the rocky headland to the north and into the next bay.

**Rabbit Island, Nelson** – Edyth Coursey has found *Periploma angasi* here as well as nice *Struthiolaria papulosa*. Doreen Burr advises that the best washups are usually at the eastern end – walk towards Nelson and note the population changes as you progress towards the point.

**Tahunanui, Nelson** – Edyth's finds from here include all the species of *Dosinia*, *Myadora striata*, *Neilo australis*, *Zelithophaga truncata*, *Tellinota edgari*, *Irus reflexus*, *Ruditapes largillierti*, *Glycymeris modesta*, *Tucetona laticostata*, and *Cominella*.

**Boulder Bank, Nelson** – varying sized boulders harbour a good selection of material, including many chitons.

**Nelson, opposite Haulashore Island** – at least four borers in the soft papa rock, and the channels between the papa are excellent for very colourful *Gari stangeri* and the chiton *Pseudotonicia cuneata*.

**Cable Bay, Nelson** – very good, accessible boulder reefs are exposed at low tide. Doreen Burr has found *Haliotis virginea*, *Dicathais orbita*, *Lima*, *Corbula*, *Diplodonta*, *Pododesmus* and *Talochlamys*.

**French Pass, Marlborough Sounds** – a good range of smaller shells, mainly in the Anabathridae, Eatoniellidae and Skeneidae families.

**Duncan Bay, Tennyson Inlet, Marlborough Sounds** – Pete Cresswell and Mike Young have dredged here with good results.

**Resolution Bay, Queen Charlotte Sound, Marlborough Sounds** – Pete says that this is a great place for both shore and sub-littoral collecting. A wealth of material can be obtained with a small hand dredge from the back of a dinghy.

**Marfell Beach** – there is usually plenty to find here, which has been reported on in earlier 'Cookias'.

**Mangamauna** – this beach, north of Kaikoura, has good material, similar to French Pass.

**Kaikoura** – there are plenty of rocks and rock pools to explore. Edyth has found *Haliotis iris* and *australis*, *Argobuccinum pustulosum tumidum*, *Turbo smaragdus*, *Benhamina obliquata*, *Scutus breviculus*, *Calliostoma punctulatum*, *Trimusculus conicus*, *Atalacmea fragilis*, *Cellana flava*, *Perna canaliculus*, *Pseudarcopagia disculus*, limpets and top shells.

**Oaro** – good rock pools on the south side.

**Waikuku** – Edyth Coursey has collected here since 1932. It is a sandy beach with a muddy estuary. Her most exciting finds have been made at the beach side of the river when the Ashley River has changed its course, and there have been *Resania lanceolata* and *Zenatia acinaces* in the wash-ups. More usually, she finds there *Amphibola crenata*, *Mactra murchisoni*, *Spisula aequilatera*, *Dosinia anus*, *Paphies australis* and *subtriangulata*, *Soletellina nitida*, *Talochlamys zelandiae*, *Austrovenus stutchburyi*.

**New Brighton, Christchurch** – good wash-ups of bivalves at the south end.

**South Brighton, Christchurch** – the wash-ups are good after a heavy tide. Edyth has found *Amalda australis* live at very low tide, as well as *Cominella glandiformis*, *Amphibola crenata*, *Divalucina cumingi*, *Offadesma angasi*, *Zenatia acinaces*, *Panopea zelandica*, *Resania lanceolata*, and *Perna canaliculus*.

**Taylors Mistake, Christchurch** – Doreen Burr found her first *Paratrophon patens* here in 1958.

**Okains Bay** – this is usually an interesting beach and a good picnic place. Look for *Patelloida corticata*, *Rexithaerus spenceri* and *Macomona liliana*.

**Akaroa** – there is a small sandy area usually with lots of *Maoricolpus roseus*.

**Caroline Bay, Timaru** – a sandy bay with boulders at each end. Edyth usually finds *Rexithaerus spenceri* on the sand, and Jenny Raven found some albino *Mytilus galloprovincialis* on the boulders with *Calliostoma punctulatum* below the mussels at very low tide and also *Lepsithais lacunosus*.

**Moeraki** – Jenny found a small wash-up of shells (similar to those found at Marfell Beach) at the south end of the main beach. The township looked promising for low tide.

**Katiki** – this is good at low tide, but be careful on the reef which is usually covered with sea lettuce and is slippery.

**Waikouaiti** – Jenny saw a small wash-up here, and live *Cookia sulcata* and *Modelia granosa* washing in.

**Warrington** – turn off the Main South Road at the bottom of the Kilmog. There is a good sandy beach, with rocks to the left, and you might find *Protothaca crassicosta*, *Haliotis iris*, *Turbo smaragdus*, *Calliostoma punctulatum*, *Benhamina obliquata*, *Pseudarcopagia disculus* and *Tawera marionae*.

**St Clair, Dunedin** – there are good rock pools and Edyth Coursey has found *Modelia granosa*, *Benhamina obliquata*, *Notoacmea badia*, *Turbo smaragdus* and *Trimusculus conica*.

**Catlins** – in the 1970s, *Astraea heliotropium* were seen here in shallow water at low tide, near the petrified forest.

**Waipapa Point** – on the Invercargill side of the lighthouse. This is a good beach for the smaller gastropods.

**Oreti, Invercargill** – Lloyd Esler says that this is possibly the best beach in the South Island for toheroa. There are also triangle shells *Mactra discors* and *murchisoni*, *Tawera spissa*, nesting mussel, sometimes a few live *Cookia sulcata* and *Xymene ambiguus*.

**Riverton** – around the tide mark there are *Haliotis virginea*, *Modelia granosa* and *Cookia sulcata*.

**Jackson Bay** – a stony beach, but with a good high tide line of shells. Edyth found large *Cellana stellifera* and thinks that a good look at the beach and the wharf would be fruitful. She only had a short time there as her husband attracted the many hungry sandflies and was keen to leave.

And a last hint from Doreen Burr – don't forget to look among the craypots on Bluff wharf.

The following articles about South Island collecting places have already been published in previous issues of *Cookia*.


Aamodt G – 'Cape Campbell / Marfells Beach Trip', *Cookia* Vol 15.

Boswell D J – 'Mollusca at Aramoana', *Cookia* Vol 4 No 3.

Burnet J – 'A Holiday in Nelson and Collingwood', *Cookia* Vol 4 No 2.

Burnet J – 'Nelson in the 1980s', *Cookia* Vol 7 No 2.

Burr D – 'Kaikoura and the Cape Campbell Trip, March 2003', *Cookia* Vol 15

Burr D – 'Tahunanui Beach and Rocks Rd – Nelson', *Cookia* Vol 15.

Cresswell P – 'A Day to Remember', *Bulletin* 35.

Cresswell P – 'Notes on Some South Island Collecting Places', *Bulletin* 36, *Cookia* Vol 5 No 1.

Gourlay E S – 'Collector's Luck', *Bulletin* 6.

Gourlay E S – 'A Day Dredging in Tasman Bay, Nelson', *Bulletin* 4.

Harding J – 'Marine Mollusca – Rabbit Island, Nelson', *Cookia* Vol 15.

Marston O J – 'Marfells Beach : Clifford Bay, Marlborough', *Cookia* Vol 11.

Paul W J – 'Topotype Collecting About Cook Strait', *Cookia* Vol 5 No 3.

Raven J – 'A Collecting Trip to Kaikoura', *Cookia* Vol 5 No 2.

Sutherland B – 'Marfell Beach, March 1982', *Cookia* Vol 5 No 1.

Watson D – 'Fast Ferry Damage to Marine Life in Tory Channel – February 2000', *Cookia* Vol 11.

Watson D – 'A Night Dive in Tory Channel', *Cookia* Vol 6 No 4.

Watson D – 'Tory Channel – Dredging and Diving 1981-1993', *Cookia* Vol 7 No 2.

Wotton M A – 'New Locality for *Notoacmea badia*', *Cookia* Vol 5 No 2.

Wotton M A – 'The Problem of Notoacmea badia', *Cookia* Vol 4 No 3.

Wotton M A & Dawson E – 'Maoricolpus roseus – a Washup and a Commentary', *Cookia* Vol 16.

SOUTH ISLAND COLLECTING PLACES

Moeraki – south end of main beach looking north.

Cape Campbell looking towards Marfell Beach. Along this coast extensive reefs are exposed at low tide and good wash ups occur along the beaches.

# North Western Australia – Dixon Island by Selwyn Bracegirdle

**8–9 SEPTEMBER 2005**

In real estate the catchphrase is 'location, location, location'. When visiting a foreign environment for the first time to shell it should be 'preparation, preparation, preparation'.

There can be significant factors to make or ruin your trip.

One of the major factors in the north of Australia are the tides. Low tides can vary considerably and there can be several metres between low and high. You definitely do not want to be caught on a sand bank many kilometres from shore with the tide coming in without the means to keep ahead of the tide. Also, it would be a shame to visit a good location only to find low tide is only down to 3 metres.

Weather is another major factor. Avoiding tropical storms and flooding is wise if you want to actually get to that choice location. But also the intense 40C plus heat of summer can be exhausting and dangerous. Both these conditions are a summer issue.

The ideal time to visit north Western Australia is around August and September. Maximum temperatures are around the 25-30C – beautiful!

**Dixon Island in the background. The tide has turned and is on its way back in.**

Also, you cannot beat local knowledge. I was given great advice by Max at M&J Shells who pointed me in the right direction for the time we were visiting, which fitted perfectly with the previously mentioned factors – thanks Max.

Then there is the equipment needed. An important consideration is what to pack the shells in for transportation. I used a variety of firm plastic containers which I could also seal should there be any remaining smells to keep contained for the flight back to Perth.

We (My Mother Brenda and I) had a bucket each as well as a back pack for carrying the shells while on the mudflats.

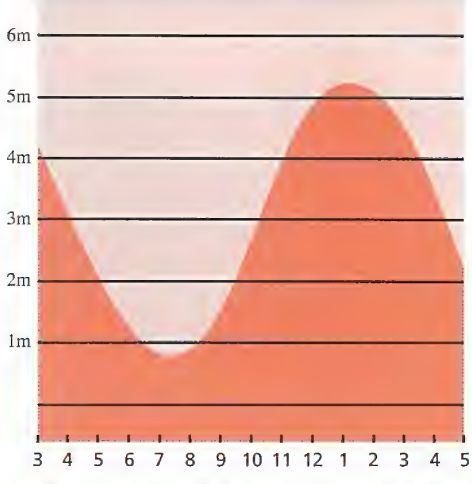
Also a small garden shovel for digging and a small knife which I used to cut out the shellfish from a live baler.

Other considerations were a sunhat, sunscreen and insect repellant. We had very little problem from insects until getting back to our vehicle when the flies seemed to gather.

Using a four wheel drive vehicle wouldbe wise. We had a vehicle that looked like a four wheel drive, but wasn't, and we got by with what we were doing. Many of the roads are unsealed and some would only be accessible with four wheel drive.

Fortunately one of the routes to the area close to Dixon Island was accessible for us. It was only a ten minute walk to the point (the rocky area to the left in both the photos above and below) which was opposite the western end of the island.

**APPROXIMATE TIDE CHART FOR A 12-14 HOUR PERIOD WHILE WE WERE AT DIXON ISLAND**




**Within a week of leaving the area low tide was not falling below three metres so areas as seen in the photo to the right would have been covered in water above our heads.**

**The sandbanks and mudflats at Dixon Island. In the far distance is the Burrup Peninsula.**

**The second morning was equally glorious. Again, Dixon Island is in the distance. On a very low tide you can walk over to the island.**

From here, after passing through a thin stand of mangroves, we had to negotiated a stream that separated us from the mudflats/sandbars. Either side of this stream the mud had gathered to make the crossing a slippery affair. But once across and on top of the mudflats/sandbars the ground was firm enough to walk comfortably. And what fun we had.

Because low tide was within an hour of sunrise we had to be at the mudflats by the time the sun rose to maximise our shelling. This meant a rather early start from our accommodation in Karratha some 45 minutes away.

The most exciting thing about shelling here was the variety and of course the different species from those in New Zealand.

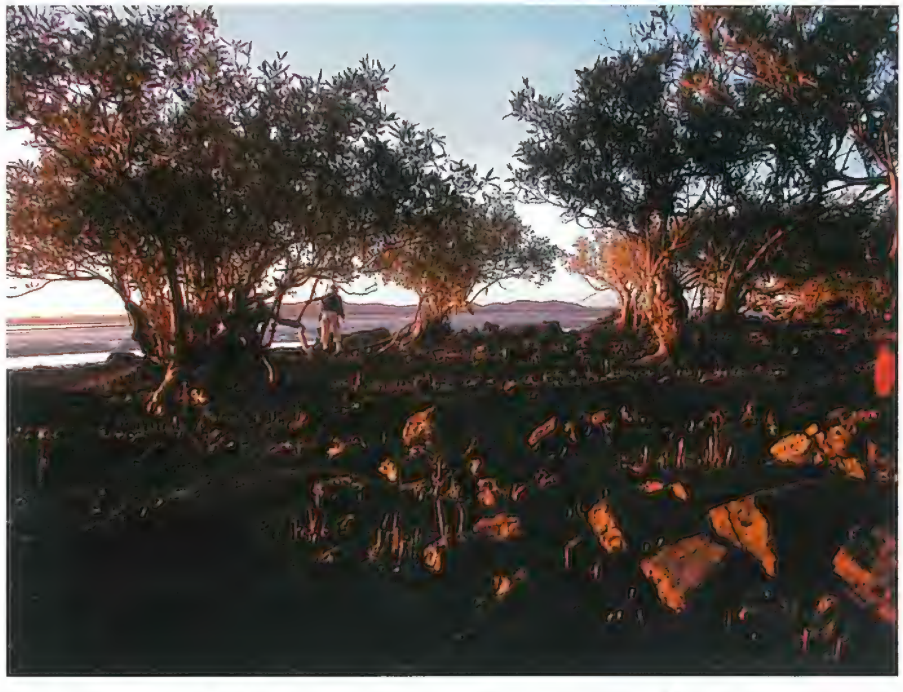
Most of the specimens we collected were empty with a small number gathered live.

The baler *Melo amphora* is relatively common here. It is interesting to note that the adults of *amphora* consume juveniles of their own species. Consequently we were able to collect several smaller empty specimens lying on the top of the mudflats.

There was an interesting range of bivalves evident everywhere.

We were keen to find species of volutes and looked for the telltale small crack on the surface, a giveaway for their location in the sand or mud. But none were found this way. All the volutes were found lying on the surface empty though one *Melo amphora* was found live on the sand.

**Yes! I really was there.**



**Some of the small number of mangroves along the coastal edges. Through the mangroves can be seen the mudflats. All this foreground is part of the intertidal zone.**

# SHELLS COLLECTED NEAR DIXON ISLAND, NORTH WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Among the few live finds was a delightful *Chicoreous cervicornis* at 52mm in length, the uncommon *Tudicula inermis* and the abundant *Nassarius dorsatus*.

In fact the *Nassarius dorsatus* were criss-crossing the sand/mud everywhere.

Apart from two fisherman, and two campervans back where we parked the car, there was no one to disturb our enjoyment of these two fabulous days.

Every hour out comes the water bottle to avoid dehydration and an opportunity to soak in the scenery.

Occasionally we came across a small deep hole where quite possibly a mollusc lived well below the surface. Around the edges of one of these I managed to dig and find the leftovers from previous meals, left by this hidden mollusc, finding *Murex brevispina* and *Murex acanthostephes*.

We had hoped to get closer to Dixon Island but to be able to walk there would have required a low tide below zero metres. However there was a deep channel seperating us from the bulk of the mudflats which would have taken up a lot of time, heading further inland, to get around.

Some of the species we were hoping to find, but did not, included *Chicoreus banksii*, *Chicoreus cornucervi* (apart from the photographed specimen), *Hexaplex stainforthi*, *Amoria praetexta*, *Amoria jamrachi* and *Amoria nivosa oblita*. These will have to wait for my next visit.

***Chicoreus cornucervi* – a big specimen – just what we had been looking for. The only one we found, but unfortunately it proved to be a badly eroded hulk.**

Cleaning out the shellfish took time but was not difficult using a combination of boiling and microwaving. There were very few live shells found that had a gloss finish that might have been affected by either of these two methods.

It was interesting the variety of shells we found and yet for many of the interesting species we only found one of each.

You get the impression about Western Australia that it is so vast there must be many species as yet undiscovered. While I haven't added to the new discoveries, for me Dixon Island was a new discovery that makes me itch to visit again ... some day.

**Mudflats and sandbars at low tide with Dixon Island in the background.**

# The Far North of New Zealand by Kris Woods

Roger and I made our fourth visit to the Far North in January 2005. This is a truly spectacular part of New Zealand and we have been very eager to return there after our family trip in 1996. As a passionate shell collector, our summer holiday would be punctuated by frequent jaunts to accessible and not so accessible shelling spots. This time, with no children aboard, we could do what we wanted to do at our own pace. Oh the sheer delight of it! After reading this article you will be left with no doubt as to how Roger and I feel about this part of our country.

We left Whangarei on January 9th and travelled north out to the coast towards Russell. Our destination was Bland Bay, a well known spot for serious shell collectors. It was great to be on that beach again. We were fortunate it was a lovely warm day and there was quite a good shell wash-up. Good pairs of *Tawera spissa* were plentiful and there was an abundance of decent-sized *Bulla quoyi*. *Gari stangeri* and *Gari convexa* were there but not in abundance. I found a couple of *Purpurocardia purpurata*. The rock pools didn't reveal anything of significance but they were deliciously warm.

Then it was on to Taupiri Bay. This is a very picturesque place. What we noticed straight away were the towering puriri and pohutukawa trees. As soon as we stepped out of the car we were greeted by the magical sound of what seemed like a choir of tuis. Indeed, while we collected shells much later, we could still hear their beautiful songs way back at the roadside. My best find here was an *Amalda novaezelandiae*. We heard later that a young kayaker had sighted what he thought was an enormous shark off Taupiri Bay the day we were there!

We moved on to Russell for lunch. Next came Paihia where we found a place that sold blue china and pottery. I collect these as well and I couldn't resist the temptation. From Paihia we drove over the Mangamuka Hill to Kaitaia. We thought this route would take us less time than through Kerikeri as it is a shorter distance. However, it took us longer as it is hillier. We didn't regret it though as the countryside in this area is picturesque with it's lush green carpet of tree-ferns and we were introduced to yet another part of New Zealand.

Our destination for this evening was Pukenui, 45kms north of Kaitaia. Bob and Betty Grange live here and we would be staying in their bach for five days. Their house has a stunning view over Houhora Harbour with Mt Camel in the background.

The next morning Roger, Bob and I set off north for Parengarenga Harbour. Our first stop was Te Hapua where I picked up some nice *Cominella glandiformis*. Regal-looking white-faced herons paraded around the wharf. The next collecting spot was Paua where we strolled across a wide expanse of mudflats to Motuwhangaikirehei Island (also known as Dog Island). Bob happily collected bivalves for a shellfish meal or two. At the island I found a couple of *Amalda depressa* and some quite nice live *Ranella australasia*. From the island we could see the magnificent white sand dunes of Kokota (The Sandspit) where silica sand is mined. We walked back to Paua Wharf hoping to find at least one *Calliostoma tigris*. This shell was elusive (Woods' luck!) but I did get a couple of live *Trochus viridis* and a *Dicathais orbita*. As I turned to go back to the car I came eyeball to eyeball with a decent-sized shark (dead, most fortunately) lying on the rocks. This is not the find I had hoped for! What is it about sharks and the Far North?

After dinner that evening the day was still warm so Roger and I made a quick visit to Rarawa Beach at Great Exhibition Bay. It is not very far north of Pukenui and is a superbly long beach with wide stretches of fine sand. Wading birds were plentiful and we seemed to be escorted by oystercatchers as we made our way up to Paxton Point. I found a lot of *Divalucina cumingi* singles. Around the rocks at Paxton Point the sand was almost totally covered by a carpet of broken bivalves. Unfortunately there was not one decent large shell to be found but there was shell sand. Would you believe that I was distracted by birds and left with no shell sand?

Te Hapua Wharf, Parengarenga Harbour.

Roger at Spirits Bay.

There are so many places you could go to in the Far North but somewhere you must go is Ninety Mile Beach. This was the first place we headed off to the following morning. We travelled about 25kms north to a turn off to Ninety Mile Beach at Te Kao. This part of the beach is known as The Bluff. When the tide is low you can walk over to Te Wakatehaua Island. The water seemed too high and choppy so we decided against going across. We enjoyed a walk along the beach instead. I picked up a bag of Tonna cerevisina pieces and pretended I was holding one whole shell. There was an abundance of birdlife, including: huge black-backed gulls; white- fronted terns and arctic skuas. We took one last look at the island and suddenly caught sight of what we thought were two Emperor Penguins! Of course we knew this could not be the case and decided that we were looking at a pair of King Shags. They were an impressive sight.

Our next stop was Spirits Bay, South East of Cape Reinga. We reached the beach through the camping ground at Kapowairua. After searching around the rocks and rock pools on Pananehe Island I found a *Neothais smithi*, some *Purpurocardia purpurata* and various but not live Buccinidae. Lots of pied stilts dotted the sand. For the second time in my shelling career (the first being Moa Point, Wellington) I found myself sharing a rock-pool with a Little Blue Penguin until it saw I wasn't a tasty morsel and swam off.

Cape Reinga was our next destination. We would not consider missing this spot on any trip to the Far North. The Cape, as always, was particularly beautiful with it's million-dollar views and Cape Maria van Diemen rising majestically in the south-west. It was a sunny, clear day enabling us to sight Three Kings Islands 65kms northwest of the Cape. Apparently there are 13 islands in this group!

On the way back to Pukenui we stopped 21kms south of the Cape at Te Paki. You are able to reach Ninety Mile Beach from here by travelling downstream to the coast. Little did I know that at Te Paki are the most enormous sand hills (more like sand mountains!) that I have ever seen and of course as soon as Roger set eyes on them I knew what was coming next. I vowed and declared I would not do it! I vowed and declared and cursed all the way up. Yes we did make it as I live to tell the tale but that is one experience I won't be repeating. I must concede though that it would really appeal to younger people. Sand tobogganing at Ninety Mile Beach, where Te Paki stream comes out, is apparently very popular.

Dinner with Bob and Betty that night found us reliving the mountaineering episode. An opportunity to see their superb shell collection afterwards finally laid the episode to rest. Well, for that day anyway!

We decided the next morning to visit the beaches down on the eastern coast at Doubtless Bay and Matauri Bay then spend the afternoon at Kerikeri. Splendidly-marked *Tawera spissa* were in abundance at Taipa and Cable Bay. The beautiful pohutakawa-lined Cooper's Beach was almost devoid of shells. It brought back fond memories though of the happy times our family spent there on previous visits and when Roger holidayed there as a young boy.

Kerikeri was just as historical as it ever is and as always in the summer, was full of tourists. I was thrilled to find several places where I could buy more blue china and pottery but we were even more thrilled to find a big branch of The Warehouse just out of Kerikeri. Now, I ask you, what would one do without the ever- popular Warehouse?

Roger climbing up a sand mountain at Te Paki.

We then headed back north and out to the east coast. The view was magnificent as we came down the hill to Matauri Bay with the Cavalli Islands in the background. It was one of the most breathtaking views of our entire trip. We arrived just as the tide was turning so I dashed off to the north to search around the rock edges as the water lapped around my feet. Small *Amalda depressa* popped up in good numbers. A walk along the beach revealed single valves of *Zenatia acinaces* and *Gari convexa*. In the rock-pools at the southern end of the beach I found live *Xymene ambiguus*. We left Matauri Bay and stopped at the turn-off at the top of the hill to admire the view once more. A friendly fellow was doing likewise and he told us he had just spent the afternoon diving at the Rainbow Warrior Wreck off the Cavalli Islands.

It was getting towards early evening by now and we were famished. We wended our way back to Mangonui. There we joined literally dozens of other travellers at the famous Mangonui Fish 'n' Chip Shop for the most sumptuous meal of that equally famous New Zealand tucker. This food outlet is well worth a visit. There is also a Shell Shop in this charming settlement.

The Karikari Peninsula and Tokerau Beach were our destinations the following morning. Bob and Betty were taking us and their knowledge of both areas is considerable so we sat back and relaxed. Our first stop was Rangiputa Beach for lunch. The sandflies thought they would be a better sandwich-filling than tomatoes so it wasn't long before we headed for Matai Bay (also known as Maitai Bay). The views here are also spectacular. The beach was very busy but that didn't stop Roger and me from scampering around amongst the rocks. Live shells eluded us but Roger came upon a large stash of discarded and empty *Pecten novaezelandiae*. Though they were unpaired single valves they were nicely marked and coloured.

**Spot the shell collector at Matauri Bay!**

Tokerau Beach is a wide expanse of inviting sand. Shell-wise there was not a lot happening but there were enough *Boreoscala zelebori* to keep me happy. It was time to head back to Pukenui. A stop was made at "The Ancient Kauri Kingdom" just north of Awanui, about 8kms north of Kaitaia. You can buy products made from beautiful kauri and you shouldn't consider visiting it without your wallet.

We spent the last evening of our holiday with Bob and Betty. There was plenty to talk about, not in the least, the countless virtues of the Far North. This was our last opportunity to enjoy the view over Houhora Harbour and the company of our excellent hosts as we planned on leaving early the next morning for Wellington. The evening ended with another long perusal of Bob and Betty's shell collection. Roger had to just about pull me away.

The Far North continues to captivate us and we shall return!

**Matauri Bay with the Cavalli Islands in the background.**

# Tonnes of Tonnas by Trix Hennessy

## PAUANUI

In October 2004 I ended a camping trip at Pauanui, a favourite spot on the east Coromandel. A local family had shown me where to look for Indian's Tears, small pieces of charcoal that turn into translucent mineral when held up wet to the light.

Once in the early morning sun I found a whole *Tonna cervisina*, green-stained on one side, and an *Argobuccinum pustulosum tumidum* on a bare tides edge. At the southern rocks end there are *Boreoscala zelebori* in the dainty washups, and once a *Pupa kirki*.

The men in wetsuits plod off round the rocks – pauas? The sandy pools were a thriving metropolis of 25mm *Xymene ambiguus*. Those driven by hermit crabs whirled crazily. The shellfish were more sedate.

This October (2004) I was dismayed to find everything decayed, silent and smelly. Something had glued its eggs completely covering every shell, alive or dead, and every broken fragment of shell as well. The apertures of the once living shellfish had been gummed up by six or more layers of 3mm flat white discs, like deadly mini-pikelets. Murder by egg laying adult *Xymene ambiguus*?

## MAHIA PENINSULAR

Early in December I camped at Mahia to farewell Blue Skies camping ground, recently sold. Goodbye chaffinches, owls and rabbits.

The whole Mahia peninsula appeared fairly bare of shells. The higher tide clumps of seaweed covered in blown sand. On Mahia Beach, halfway along in one of Jenny Raven's favourite spots, I found a *Semicassis labiatum* and then a second one near to the low tide. Both showed terrible breaks about 20mm back from the apertures – I admire lifeforms that fight to survive – both shells had mended the fractures and gone on living.

The next morning I checked the northern bays from Oraka Beach onward.

The *Cellana flava* were still flourishing on their two seaward reefs beyond the constantly falling gravel of the goat-topped cliffs. They were orangely obvious in their excavated depressions.

I did six bays beyond the fence barriers towards Ahuriri Point – big mistake. The tide was coming in. In places it smashes onto the grass. The fences were still down so I was sharing the vanishing beaches with large, black cattle. There was a wide barrier of smelly gluey kelp. I turned back with a firm grip on a five-foot manuka stake. Then I saw it! Perched on the acres of kelp was one brilliant *Semicassis labiatum*, its orange colour unfaded by the 2-3 weeks of sun.

This shell also had a giant zigzag smash line 20mm back from the lip, also duly mended and continued in a paler pattern. The same species from the opposite side of the peninsular showed the same damage in the same area – I wondered how fast they grow and what storm had broken them.

Driving back to Blue Skies on the final straight of the Mahia entry road I passed a little bantam in the roadside scrub. Five minutes later I gaped at two magnificent Chinese pheasant cocks, their reds and golds glowing in the sunset. I hadn't even had a wine, yet.

## MOUNT MAUNGANUI

On to Mount Maunganui, another favourite place. The sand groomer does the whole area at 6am, so you're in it for that day's shells alone. The Maori elders have had a ban on the taking of mussels for 7 years to restock the area. This hasn't stopped foreign hordes of 15 or more arriving with lines, wetsuits and wire netting traps. It feels quite twitchy to see them at work.

At the Mount a gentle English hippy – 30 years in New Zealand and still loves the place – had watched three whales the previous day 'goofing off' in Tauranga harbour. His eyes were bright, remembering.

He said the local council had announced that it had rid the Mount of all rabbits.

We both wondered in that case who was the half-grown fellow with the big brown eyes who did the rounds of the camping ground at dawn and dusk. But the friendly little families of Californian quail are missing.

It was a bad visit for shells. The last day I walked beyond the south islet to collect a few singles of *Pecten novaezelandiae* for kindergartens. There was a medium size eel stranded on an ebbing tide. The sand was scuffed where he'd tried to get a purchase. No marks of hooks or spears. He had very short fins and wasn't mucus-covered like river eels. Three times I threw him as fas as I could and the waves, scraping the bottom, rolled him back like a log. The fourth time I swung him like a boomerang. The eel was last seen four clear waves out, heading for Chile.

## PAUANUI AGAIN

Last stop Pauanui. Few shells, no *Boreoscala zelebori*, but a few *Xymene ambiguous* back in the pools. I had walked from the estuary right round to the southern rocks. I asked a passing lady if I was on the right boulevard for the camping ground, mentioning "I'm a member of the Wellington Shell Club". "Come with me" she said.

A beautiful garden, Dutch husband, teenagers and computer games. Her house was stuffed with *Tonna cervisina*. Every ledge, every floral arrangement, the hearths – tonnas everywhere!

In 2000 an easterly storm threw hundreds of them onto Opoutere Beach. Crowds came to look and collect. The local newspaper published photos and an article. Kelly Tarlton took some live. The locals collected the rest, piled them in a boat, sailed out to mid ocean and turfed them overboard. A chance to live on.

I have had a yen for *Tonna cervisina* long before Bill Shortt gave me my first one. Too big for my cabinets and beautifully patterned, it has its own box on top. I have always mournfully collected beautiful fragments. But now I think I'm 'off' tonnas for good. I'll have to find something else. Something that doesn't turn up in truckloads every ten years or so, especially when I'm not there!

# Book Review: by Zvi Orlin
# Olividae – A Collector's Guide

**By Gunther H.W. Sterba, 2004, 172p. 62 colored plates, 37 figures.**

One of the families in which I have always had great difficulty in determining the species, is Olividae.

This is easily understood, as there are almost innumerable forms, some of which vary to a large degree, and make it very difficult to ascertain the species, with the limited methods used by most collectors. Therefore I was very happy to learn of this new updated publication, which could assist me in my classifications. This book is an enlarged and revised English translation, from the German edition published last year.

First a detailed description is given of the shell, followed by the systematics of the family, and then the colored plates, with pictures of 237 of the 317 valid species. The species not figured are named in the Supplement, with brief information about them, many of which are deep water species, of which only a few species are known.

The illustrations are excellent colored photographs, usually of the dorsal side of the shell, and mostly also one picture of the ventral side, with occasional pictures of the nuclei. Small species are shown in natural size, with enlarged pictures alongside for easier determination. But what is most important is that the various forms are also shown, often with a wide range of differences in color and pattern, which are important to the collector in his identifications. The text opposite the plates, gives detailed descriptions of each species, and their known distribution especially where they have special forms. In the Index all valid species are in bold type, whereas for other names the correct name is equated. Many of the illustrations are from different locations, showing differences that are most important for correct classification.

After using this up-to-date book to check my collection, I can highly recommend it to all collectors, who are interested in the classification of Olividae. We must thank Professor Sterba for his lifetime study of this interesting family, and placing his expertise at our disposal in this excellent Guide Book.

# Collecting Techniques by Graham Aamodt

Hi there! May name is Graham Aamodt, otherwise known as "Hawkeye" because of my natural ability to find quality shells despite others having just been before me. My secret to success is due to the following hunting methods:

1) Devise a mantra suitable for the shell that you are hunting e.g. "Here Globbi Globbi" – sometimes works when seeking the hard to find *Globisinum drewi*.

2) Gaze lovingly at an example (or picture) of the shell that you will hunt for (concentrate on shape and colour), then search the beach. You may not find the shell – but hey, you should end up with a nice pebble collection.

3) Turn over EVERY rock you come across – remember to replace the rocks as you found them. While this system could be unsuccessful at the very least you will benefit from the weight training and grow bigger mussels – oops, I mean muscles.

4) Throw a pine cone or other object along the tideline(s). Where it lands is where the "gold" is ..... well maybe not but usually the 999th throw produces something, that is as long as you haven't smashed it. This is also a wonderful way to improve your throwing arm, especially if you are a cricket bowler or shot putter.

If none of these work for you, there's always the tried and true method of opening a wallet or purse and passing on some green stuff in exchange for shells. However, do please try my methods – they are at least guaranteed to get you outside in the sunshine and some exercise.

# Book Review: by Zvi Orlin
# Sea Slugs of Southern America – Systematics, Biogeography and Biology of Chilean and Magellanic Nudipleura

**By Michael Schrodl**
**ISBN-Nr 3-925919-64-3 Published 2003. ConchBooks, Mainzer Str. 25, D-55546 Hackenheim, Germany.**

My interest in the Magellanic Region, was fostered by a project I set myself, to study the mollusks of the Southern Ocean and adjoining regions. As up-to-date literature on the subject is very limited, this publication is a welcome addition. It sums up all the monographs published by the author in the last decade, with important supplements.

Dr. Schrodl is the Curator of the Zoologische Staatssammlung Munchen, and since 1991 has been scuba diving, and collecting live specimens of the Nudipleura of the Magellanic Region, and north along the west coast of South America, to Arica in the Peruvian Province. In addition he participated in a trawling expedition in the Magellan Straits and Beagle Channel in 1994/5. This publication is a major part of a Ph.D. Thesis presented to the University of Munich in January 2003.

Species identification includes morphological and anatomical studies, histology and SEM examinations, and extensive comparisons with available museum material. Seventeen collection sites are listed, their location shown on a map, dates and quantities found, totaling over 2000 specimens. The results of this survey, was identifying 44 species collected personally; of the 108 nominal species of the study area listed, 65 are considered valid, 28 species were synonymized, 5 regarded as nomina dubia, and 1 shown to be a nomen nudum. A detailed Catalogue is presented of the valid species, recording their description, habitat and distribution, with colored photographs of live specimens, Museum and Type material, and some original colored drawings.

An Identification Key is also available, for field studies; the author considers that external features should be confirmed by anatomical study, and comparison with taxonomic literature.

The zoogeographic section presents a distribution list, according to location zones, which I found most helpful in my above project. There is a special chapter on Endemism, (in which I am particularly interested), showing the numbers of species and percentages of the different regions, and likewise the degree of sharing with adjoining regions, including data source. My only criticism of the book, is a lack of an Index, for quick reference; however a list, according to systematic order, heads the Catalogue, so each species is relatively easy to find, as it is numbered.

Michael has my utmost admiration, for diving in the cold and stormy waters of the surveyed regions, and his meticulously detailed recording of the data accumulated, in some of the remotest and most dangerous regions on our planet. I highly recommend this excellent publication, to all those interested in the fauna of the regions surrounding the Southern Ocean.

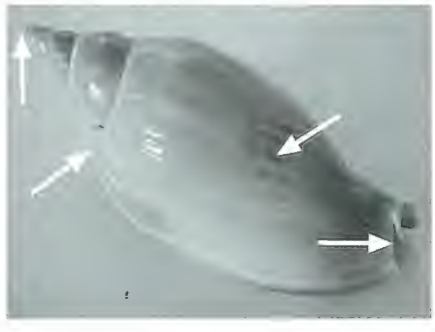
# The Acid Test by Selwyn Bracegirdle

I wanted to discover how well a diluted acid might clean shells. So not wanting to be tentative I went for the full dunk method.

Wearing all the appropriate gear and being careful and methodical I selected my *Alcithoe arabica*. It was immersed in the grip of some appropriate tongs and through my goggles I could see that a stain on the back was not being eaten away by the acid so I kept it there. In fact very quickly the stain seemed to get worse, then it dawned on me, it was not a stain but a shadow from within the shell – the acid was eating through the shell!

Out came the shell and into a water solution to wash it.The photo to the right is the specimen concerned. Note the way the surface has been eaten into. It has a fabulous sheen but is now spoiled by numerous flaws to the extremities such as the protoconch, lip and the surface.

For recommended ways to clean shells refer to your Index Issue of *Cookia*



under the heading CLEANING. In fact why not put your Index Issue to the test and see how useful it can be.

# *Mitra carbonaria* Swainson 1822

by Selwyn Bracegirdle

***Mitra carbonaria* is being found in the south west corner of the North Island of New Zealand by members of the Wellington Shell Club.**

This species has gained an increased interest within the Wellington Shell Club in recent years due to a number of local finds. An interest that is understandable when considering it is generally regarded as being restricted to the northern half of the North Island in the New Zealand region. This hold's true for the North Island's east coast but no longer for the west coast.

I have seen Don Watson's wonderful collection of this species from his diving days when he collected live *Mitra carbonaria* in the vicinity of Kapiti Island, which extended its known distribution well south. Kapiti Island, however, is not its southern limit as *Cookia* Vol 3 No 2, 1979 refers to a damaged specimen being found at Karehana Bay near Plimmerton some years before 1979 . John Marston recalls a specimen being found by Peter Cornford in 1965 somewhere in the vicinity of Onehanga Bay on the opposite side of the entrance to Porirua Harbour from Karehana Bay. Unfortunately while Peter continued his shelling it was lost through a hole in the bag. John himself found a specimen at Onehanga Bay in the early 1990s.

In 2000 Jenny Raven discovered a beached specimen at Green Point near Titahi Bay several kilometres further south of Karehana Bay. Then last year (2004) I found a small damaged specimen beached at Owhiro Bay (Latitude 41°21′S), Wellington, nearly the southern limit of the North Island. This I believe to be the southern most find in New Zealand.

This year, on my first visit to Green Point, I found two specimens and have now found a total of ten beached specimens at Green Point from March to October 2005 – an average of at least one per visit. While there is no record of live specimens being found south of Kapiti, it would not be unreasonable to suggest its distribution on the west coast of the North Island is sporadic but reaches the south west corner of the Island, based on the number of beached specimens found. I am unaware of any finds south of Hawkes Bay on the east coast .While specimens of *Mitra carbonaria* have also been found around Taranaki, suitable habitats appear more limited on the west coast than the north-eastern North Island.

*Mitra carbonaria* is not endemic to New Zealand as its range extends south from Houtman Abrolhos Islands in Western Australia along the southern coastline of Australia, including Tasmania (which almost reaches 43°S), to and including New South Wales, and the North Island of New Zealand as well as the Kermadec Islands.

*Mitra carbonaria* has been known by a number of primary synonyms.
W O Cernohorsky (1976) identified the synonymy for the typical form as follows:
*Mitra melaniana* Lamarck, 1829
*Mitra nigra* Reeve, 1844
*Mitra rhodia* Reeve, 1845
*Volutamitra digna* A Adams, 1855
*Mitra maoria* Finlay, 1926
*Vicimitra contermina* Iredale, 1936
*Mitra sinusigera* Laseron, 1951.

Cernohorsky (1976) considered that *Mitra badia* Reeve, 1844 was merely a form of M. carbonaria, but as noted below, they are clearly distinct species. Cernohorsky included the following as primary the synonyms of *M. badia*:
*Mitra castanea* A Adams, 1853
*Mitra rosettae* Angas, 1865
*Mitra perksi* Cotton & Godfrey, 1932.

## FACT FILE

- Grow to 70mm
- Feeds on Sipunculida
- Live in sand, mud or rubble
- Habitat includes intertidal
- Uncommon in New Zealand
- Coloured dark brown to tan
- There are many synonyms

(If you have an old collection of dark Mitridae it might be interesting to compare names with these synonyms).

Ian Loch (1989) indicated that *Mitra carbonaria* and *Mitra badia* are distinct species based on some clear differences.

*M. carbonaria* having a greater number of eggs per egg capsule, having more protoconch whirls indicating a longer planktonic life, and having a more restricted Australian distribution than *M. badia*. Furthermore, the foot in *M. carbonaria* is white whereas it is cream in *M. badia*.

*M. carbonaria* feeds on peanut worm (Sipunculida).

(For a tabulated list of differences refer *Australian Shell News*, No 65, January 1989 'Some Light on Dark Mitres', Ian Loch)

HABITAT:

In sand, mud, or rubble, under rocks from the intertidal zone to at least 40 metres. *M. carbonaria* is regarded as uncommon-rare in New Zealand and generally lives sublittorally here.

DESCRIPTION:

The shell grows to around 70mm in length and in New Zealand shells are more slender than Australian ones.

A mature specimen will have 6-8 whorls plus 2-3 protoconch whorls.

The surface is sculptured with minute spiral grooves, numbering as many as 30 on a single whorl. These are crossed by longitudinal striae.

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND

NEAR PERTH
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

ALBANY
WESTERN
AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA

NEW SOUTH WALES

AUROA POINT
MAHIA
Collector: Jenny Raven

NEW ZEALAND

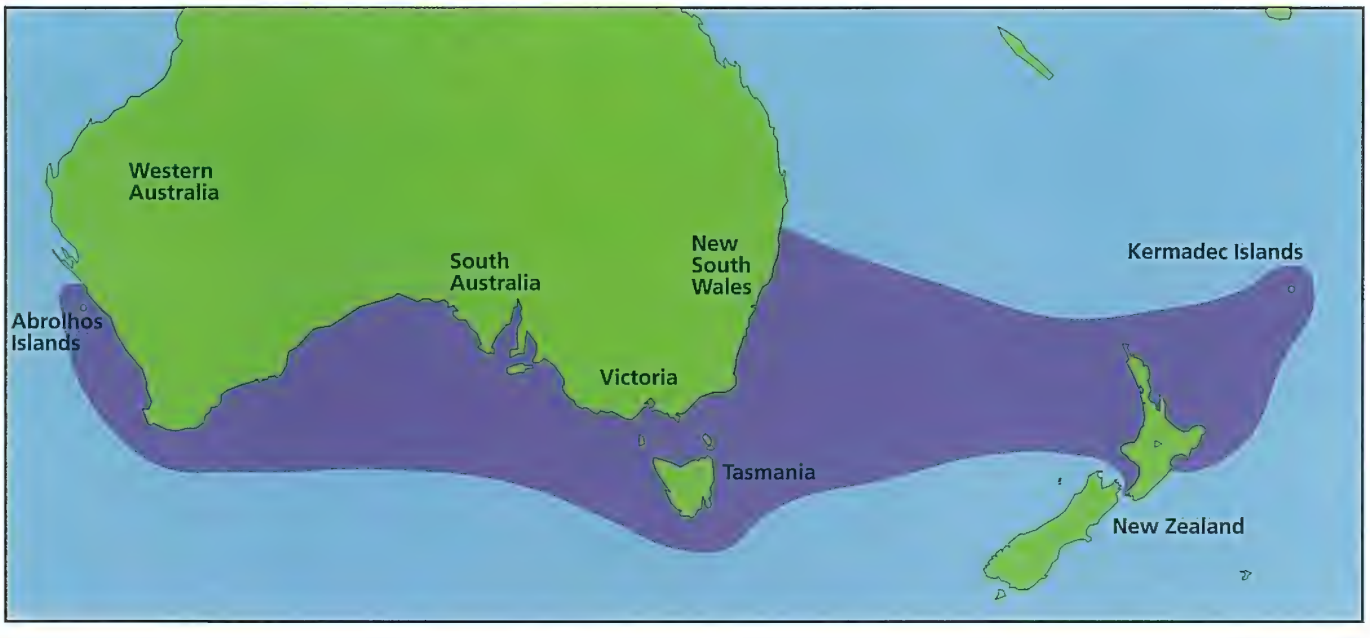
GREEN POINT
WELLINGTON
Collector: Jenny Raven

GREEN POINT
WELLINGTON
Collector: Selwyn Bracegirdle

OWHIRO BAY
WELLINGTON
'Southernmost
record in New Zealand'
Collector:
Selwyn Bracegirdle

All the above specimens are shown approximately actual size.

## Distribution of *Mitra carbonaria*



Looking towards Green Point from a location more than half way along the walk from the parked car. When you leave your car, a climb down a steep incline is followed by a rocky walked mixed with crossing pebbly and sandy areas. You may even see the occasional goat, sheep or cow. The photo also shows the proximity of Mana Island to the right.

The aperture is similar in length to the spire, but this varies as can be seen in the photos on page fifteen.

The shell colour of New Zealand specimens ranges from tan to dark brown.

The inside wall of the aperture is brown while the columellar folds are cream. The number of columellar folds in mature specimens is 4-6.

COLLECTING YOUR OWN SPECIMENS:

Spotting *Mitra carbonaria* on the beach is difficult as they can match the appearance of seaweed or driftwood. But good luck finding examples of this interesting species.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This photo is taken from Green Point looking northwest towards Titahi Bay where the houses can be seen in the distance. The distribution of beached shells as seen in this photo is quite typical for Green Point.

# Wellington Shell Club 2005

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**2005 Membership Fees:** Single $12 • Family $15 • Overseas $25

# *Cookia* Contributions

Members and other readers are invited to submit contributions (handwritten, typed or electronic) but, preferrably, these should be in the Editor's hand before the end of May for inclusion in that year's issue (look at a recent issue to see the style to follow).

Please use (unless there is a stated reason not to do so given in your manuscript) the molluscan names in the latest *Checklist of the Recent Mollusca described from the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone* by H G Spencer, R C Willan, B A Marshall and T J Murray – which is periodically updated at

**http://toroa.otago.ac.nz/pubs/spencer/mollusca/index.html**

Authors should also save the editor work by checking the spelling of these names very carefully. Following standard practise, in long lists of species the species names should NOT be listed in alphabetical order but in systematic sequence (with Family headings) as in the 'Checklist'. Bruce Marshall, our 'resident malacologist', is very willing to check identifications or species names for any members who would like his help. Please take advantage of this generous offer. The Editor is always happy to discuss proposed contributions with members.

***Checklist of the Recent Mollusca described from the New Zealand Exclusive Economic Zone*:**

This electronic checklist is a compilation of information that has already been published; it does not contain any original name changes or new records. Therefore, it can be regarded as a "tool of convenience" giving the latest names and where to find the publications in which any new changes will have appeared. New name changes are regularly given in a section entitled "Recent Changes to the Web Page" with a reference to the publication in which the change was made. The Mollusca Section library at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongawera contains an unsurpassed collection of the world literature on Mollusca, and the original sources of any name changes can easily be consulted, by arrangement with Bruce Marshall, if needed. This list is linked to our website.

# Wellington Shell Club Publications

*Cookia* is the journal of the Wellington Shell Club and is published annually, containing articles and smaller items of interest on shells, shell collecting, and molluscs as well as other related marine topics.

*Cookia* was first published in 1976; prior to this the Club published a *Circular*, then a *Bulletin*, as well as occassional *Study Notes* on various families of Mollusca.

PUBLICATIONS TO DATE

1956–1965 *Circular* 1 to 21

1967–1975 *Bulletin* 1 to 36

1976–1977 *Cookia* Volume 1, Nos 1, 2, 3

1977–1978 *Cookia* Volume 2, Nos 1, 2, 3

1979–1980 *Cookia* Volume 3, Nos 1, 2, 3

1980–1981 *Cookia* Volume 4, Nos 1, 2, 3

1982–1984 *Cookia* Volume 5, Nos 1, 2, 3, 4

1985–1992 *Cookia* Volume 6, Nos 1, 2, 3, 4

1993–1996 *Cookia* Volume 7, Nos 1, 2, 3, 4 [Index]

1997 *Cookia* Volume 8

1998 *Cookia* Volume 9

1999 *Cookia* Volume 10

2000 *Cookia* Volume 11

2001 *Cookia* Volume 12

2002 *Cookia* Volume 13

2003 *Cookia* Volume 14 [The Shell Lists]

2003 *Cookia* Volume 15

2004 *Cookia* Volume 16

2005 *Cookia* Volume 17

(*Cookia* Volume 7, No 4, is an index of all articles in the Club's publications to 1996)

BACK ISSUES

Back issues of *Cookia* are available at cost plus postage; individual articles, and copies of the Bulletins, Circulars and Study Notes can be ordered at 10c per page plus postage, from Jill Burnet, 84 Brougham Street, Mt Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand; or see our homepage at **www.actrix.gen.nz/users/littlejn**

**HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THAT SHELL? ANSWERS**

*1 – Alcithoe fusus • 2 – Amalda australis • 3 – Astraea heliotropium*
*4 – Austrofusus glans • 5 – Lepsithais lacunosus • 6 – Modelia granosa*
*7 – Scutus breviculus • 8 – Semicassis labiata • 9 – Tucetona laticostata*

# How well do you know the shell?

**Identify the nine shells below from the photographic portion shown. Answers are on page twenty eight.**